FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL

To RECEIVE questions from the Public:

AGENDA INFORMATION

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** To receive and accept apologies for absence.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF ANY INTERESTS AND TO CONSIDER ANY REQUESTS FOR A DISPENSATION WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**, as required by the Members Code of Conduct.
3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** To RESOLVE that the minutes of the ordinary meeting of Firle Parish Council held on 13th October 2026 are a correct record and signed by the Chair.
4. **FINANCE & ADMIN:**
   - 4.1 To RECEIVE and SIGN the November finance report and bank reconciliation and AUTHORISE payments to be made.
   - 4.2 To DISCUSS and AGREE any updates to the first draft of the 2027/8 budget.
5. **GRANT AWARDS:**
6. **REPORT(S):**
   - 6.1 To RECEIVE reports from Local and District Councillors and the MP for Lewes.
7. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:** To RECEIVE the following correspondence and AGREE any actions:
   - 7.1 Advance apologies for a number of meetings – Cllr Denis.
     I have a new engagement for next 8-10 (+/-) weeks on Tuesday evenings (started yesterday) so will not be able to attend any PC meetings on a Tuesday. And belated apologies for yesterday as it was unexpected. I am still very much working on villages/parishes issues and am, of course, happy to follow up or raise issues on behalf of the council so do let me know and do feel free to prompt.
   - 7.2 East Sussex Highways uncovered. Getting the most from One.Network – ESH. I will forward the email as it contains a link to a video from the session they ran. I have also put a pdf on agenda info about road closures and diversion signs.
   - 7.3 A few questions about parish council correspondence and Firle Estate – local resident.
     Email has been forwarded to cllrs.
   - 7.4 National Emergencies Trust Toolkit and campaign: Ready Together – LDC. I have been sent a briefing and comms pack from LDC which will be on the agenda info.
   - 7.5 Funding for Community Resilience Projects – LDC. I have put the flyer with details on agenda info. The fund offers grans up to £5.5k for projects that help communities prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies. It opens 21 Nov and closes 14 Dec.
   - 7.6 Draft DMMO Policy for comment – ESCC. The policy is on agenda information.
     East Sussex County Council (ESCC) are proposing to introduce a new policy for the prioritisation of Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMOs).
     Applications are processed chronologically, and this will remain the case. However, due to an increase in applications and waiting times, we believe there are situations where it might be appropriate to prioritise certain applications. For example, where the route is at risk of being lost as the result of a development, or user evidence might be compromised over time.
     We are seeking views from all statutory consultees on the draft policy, attached. Please send us your comments by Tuesday 17th November.
     Background to the Policy:
     The Definitive Map and Statement (DMS) are the legal record of recognised public rights of way (PROWs) in East Sussex. The DMS is a map-based and written record and can only be changed via a legal order and public consultation.
     Anyone has a right to apply for the DMS to be modified, if they believe there is an error on the map or information missing. This process can be started by submitting a DMMO application to ESCC. As part of its work to keep the DMS up to date, ESCC has a statutory duty to process these applications.
     Applications to have new PROWs added to the DMS are typically made by members of the public or stakeholder groups. Supporting evidence will look to demonstrate:

- That a route existed before 1949 and therefore should have been included on the original version of the DMS, or
- That there has been 20-years of current unchallenged use.

DMMO cases are frequently contentious and can each take around 2-4 years to process. This is due to their complexity, the need for extensive consultation and the legal process involved. If objected to, cases must be referred to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) to resolve. This may involve a Public Inquiry or Hearing.
For reasons detailed in the attached proposed policy, ESCC now has a backlog of around 113 DMMO applications. Given County Council resources, we can process around 4-5 applications annually, with their being around a 10-year wait for each case to be investigated. To fairly address the County Council's processing of the DMMO backlog, the attached draft policy is being proposed.

7.7 Local Government Reorganisation – LDC.

Yesterday, Government published the outcome of its review of the Local Government Reorganisation programme and confirmed that it will be taking the programme forward.
In East Sussex, government is 'minded to' implement the proposal submitted jointly by East Sussex County Council, Eastbourne Borough Council, Lewes District Council, Hastings Borough Council, and Rother District Council, with the modifications to the proposed boundary requested by Brighton and Hove City Council. This would move East Saltdean, Telscombe Cliffs and Peacehaven into Brighton & Hove.
The ministerial letter states that this is a provisional view and not a final decision. The previous decision has been formally withdrawn, and the proposals will now be considered afresh. Before a final decision is made, councils and other interested parties will have a period of three weeks to submit any new information or further representations.
Councils are not being asked to resubmit proposals, views or evidence that have already been provided. Instead, they should only submit new information or points they wish the Government to consider. All material submitted previously will remain available to the Minister and will be taken into account when making the final decision.
The MHCLG has also confirmed that:

- local elections will proceed on the existing council boundaries in May 2027
- elections to the new shadow councils are expected to take place in May 2028
- the new councils are expected to become operational in April 2029

The council will now consider the Government's provisional conclusions, the detailed reasoning and the arrangements for making further representations.
Further information is available in the Government's announcement: Local Government Reorganisation moves forward in five counties - GOV.UK
Please see Cllr Nicholson's statement here: Statement from Cllr Zoe Nicholson, on today's Local Government Reorganisation

7.8 SDNPA Community Infrastructure Levy call for projects 2026/7 – SDNPA. This opens on 2nd Nov until 31 March 27.

8. MATTERS ARISING:

8.1 To AGREE any action to update the Firle Emergency Plan.

8.2 To RESOLVE to purchase an additional litter bin and to AGREE its location – Cllr Hill. Emptying per bin is approx. £80+vat per quarter

Bin sizes and costs

112L

Dimensions	Price	Installation
980mm height x 550mm width x 550mm depth	£314.99	£50.00

224L

Dimensions	Price	Installation
970mm height x 1000mm width x 550mm depth	£484.99	£50.00

8.3 To RESOLVE to undertake repairs to the bus shelters – Cllr Barr.

8.4 To RECEIVE an update on the letters sent to residents regarding overgrown foliage – Cllr Hill.

8.5 To RECEIVE an update on leaf sweeping – Cllrs Barr and Lance.

9. HIGHWAYS:

9.1 To RECEIVE an update on the reporting of the faded road markings by Firle Primary School and the damaged speed sign. The speed sign has been fixed.

10. PLANNING APPLICATIONS: To AGREE comments for any applications received:

10.1 **SDNP/25/05120/FUL / 05121/ LIS Proposal:** Erection of a light industrial building, with associated parking area and landscaping and conversion of redundant agricultural buildings into ancillary office and showroom area **Location:** Land and Buildings adjacent to, Dairy Farm, Wick Street, Firle, East Sussex, BN8 6NB (comments by 11th November).

10.2 **SDNP/26/04005/FUL Proposal:** Erection of a single-storey building providing two self-contained units of visitor accommodation (Pilgrim's Bothy). **Location:** St Peters Church, The Street, Firle, East Sussex, BN8 6LP (comments by 23 Nov).

10.3 **SDNP/26/04194/HOUS / 04195/LIS Proposal:** Replacement of window on West elevation with timber French doors, replacement of 1no door and 1no window on South Elevation **Location:** Church House, The Street, Firle, East Sussex, BN8 6LP (comments by 2 December).

11. TO AGREE ITEMS FOR THE PARISH MAGAZINE.

12. TO PROPOSE AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL.

13. TO RECEIVE THE TIME AND DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL.

14. TO RESOLVE TO CLOSE THE MEETING TO MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC.

14.1 To discuss general council working practices, training and communication – Cllr Hill.

14.2 To DISCUSS and AGREE a protocol for external organisations.

15. TO CLOSE THE MEETING.